

REMARKS

Claims 15, 17 and 20 – 21 are finally rejected on new grounds. Claims 15, 17 and 19 (now canceled) were rejected under Section 103 based on Horikiri (JP 11069681) in view of Kibe (JP2002058188). Claims 20 and 21 are rejected on this basis but in further view of Segawa (2004/0163879). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in part and requests reconsideration in view of both the above amendment and the following remarks. This amendment should be entered because it places the limitations of canceled claim 19 into independent claim 15. No new issues are introduced by the amendment. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of this amendment does not require a new search. The amendment places the application in better condition for allowance or appeal.

Claim 15 now requires that the spring is fixed to the rotor body by a fixing device, e.g., a bolt, on a side of the O-shaped spring opposite the opening in the spring. The final office action rejected claim 19 by concluding that this limitation is present in the Horikiri reference. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As best understood, the Horikiri reference discloses two separate and spaced-apart “C character-like flat springs” which are not fixed and which do not overlap one another. In fact, according to the disclosures of Horikiri and Kibe, a non-obvious reconstruction of the prior art would be required to meet the terms of claim 15. This is because the bolt 11 shown in the prior art is not shown to attach either of the two C character springs to a rotor body. Rather, the springs appear to be floating. A second reason the claimed subject matter is non-obvious over the combination is that the bolt 11 extends through the space in which the two C character springs are placed as an obstruction, and it cannot be said that there is any resulting cooling advantage in any resulting axial cooling channel which would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the references.

For these reasons it is urged that it is not obvious to combine the Horikiri and Kibe references to meet the terms of the claims. Independent claim 15 and each claim which depends therefrom is now patentably distinguished over the prior art.

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Conclusion

Allowance of the application is requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Janet D. Hood
Janet D. Hood
Registration No. 61,142
(407) 736-4234

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830